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DETACHMENT 25

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INTEGRATION REPORT

1. ~~Cardinal TISSERANT~~ who, because of his past activities with the ~~French~~ ~~mission~~ is an expert on Middle Eastern questions drew a rather alarming picture of the situation in that zone after his recent trip. He has stated that the Catholic world in general, and the Vatican in particular, is running the risk of self-delusion, after some measure of success in the religious and educational field, on the true strength of and on the possibility of reaching a limited tentative agreement with Islamism, which is a spiritual force that is capable of collaborating in the defense against Communism. According to the Cardinal, this delusion is based upon the erroneous evaluation that the clergy and the laymen attribute to the force of religious persuasion in the modern Middle East. In this zone there exists, instead, the real danger of secularism, which is just as serious as the Communist threat and is more difficult to combat since it is supported by many different groups and, above all, by the two politically strongest states in that area, Turkey and Israel.

2. Cardinal TISSERANT did not refrain from criticizing the diplomacy of the Vatican regarding its inability to draw obvious conclusions and its failure to attempt to intervene in time with all of its strength against the reconciliation of Turkey and Israel, which is now a political factor of the greatest importance and must be considered as the most serious threat to the position of the Vatican and Catholicism. Under their present leaders both of these states are definitely oriented toward secularism and are fighting on two fronts, against Communism and against orthodoxism, proclaiming religious indifference as a manifestation of modern society while the religious faiths of Islamism and Hebrewism are described as a manifestation of backwardness within these two states. The rise of a strong secular policy can not fail to damage the Vatican's plans, based as they are upon the concept of collaboration with the forces of Islam and which must, in addition to combatting Communism, serve also to hinder the rising influence of the Anglo-Faxon countries, the natural allies of a fundamental Anti-Catholic Policy, in the Middle East.

3. Cardinal TISSERANT has no doubts over the reconciliation of TEL AVIV and ANKARA, which represents an American victory in view of the fact that the two states,

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which are the strongest in the area militarily, politically, and economically and are oriented toward the Western Block, are capable, with the financial help of the United States, of assuming a role of the utmost importance in the Middle East, which Egypt was unable to do. This alliance has an anti-British tinge, but since it favors the United States, who once she has firmly established herself in a region and has secured the political, economic, and strategic advantages that she needs, has given proof on more than one occasion of always being ready to support Great Britain. This must certainly be the reason for all of the directives and the interferences in education, in editorials, and in spiritual matters that have a direct bearing upon the religious situation and which manifests itself in an anti-Catholic and a pro-Protestant feeling.

4. In addition to being anti-Catholic, the policy of the Anglo-Saxon powers is generally secular and thus favorable to all of the modern tendencies which attempt to upset the supremacy of the religious organs in favor of the secular institutions in the Islamic world. This underground fight finds its most fertile ground in the scholastic institutions, in specialist institutions, and in schools where, together with American and British financial subsidies, instructors who are avowed Protestants or who are exponents of religious indifference receive preferential treatment. Faced with this situation, the Arab League is too weak and lacking in firm guidance, and to the extent that the relations between it and Turkey continuously become worse the position of Israel is being strengthened, a position which will be definitely consolidated on the day when Great Britain succeeds in detaching Trans-Jordan from the League, and King Abdullah, after his adherence to the Mediterranean Military - political system which they are trying to form around the Turkish - Israeli Alliance, will have made peace with the Israeli Government. Therefore, the directives that will be needed to hinder this development will be of two types, political and educational.

5. The Vatican will continue its policy of collaboration in the educational field with the Islamic organisms and it will continue to favor collaboration in the propaganda field. This activity will of necessity center around the Egyptian Government, which has a great need for support in order to try to recover its position in the Arab League. The Vatican will thus do all it can to strengthen Egyptian prestige and the activities of the Arab League. In fact, on the occasion of his visit to CAIRO, Cardinal TISSIERANT contacted the Supreme Council of the Ajami Al-Ashar, and with the agreement of this highest of Islamic doctrination institutions, he outlined a plan for religious cooperation with the Vatican and at the same time he proposed that the Egyptian Council of Ministers send a "Cultural Embassy" to the Vatican with the mission of favoring and developing contacts between Moslem and Christian students. This cultural-religious activity will have the duplicate objective of an anti-Communist and an anti-secular campaign.

6. In the political field, Cardinal TISSIERANT has placed himself on record as being in favor of the Vatican's definite support of petitions and movements of a nationalistic character among the Arabs. He has maintained that the effective help of the nationalistic Arabs is the only way of preventing them from making common cause with the Communists who are now already trying to infiltrate into the nationalist movements in order to fight against the influence of the powers who are interested in this sector and to prevent the Middle East from becoming a Western

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Base. According to Cardinal TISSOT the nationalistic movements have traditionally, and now also as a matter of convenience, had a definite religious background and are actually the tools of Islamism. The Vatican will attempt to intervene in these movements in order to combat Communism and Eastern secularism and to create such a great spiritual-religious force that the supremacy of the Vatican among the non-European peoples, Asia and Africa, which the Anglo-Saxons have always contested everywhere, will be assured.

7. Support of the Nationalists means the support of the Arab League, inasmuch as it is opposed to Turkey and Israel, and support of ISRAEL against France, who is playing the American game in her North African Protectorate and cannot be considered an ally. In agreement with the Egyptian Government the activities of the Vatican in regard to the Nationalists, as for example, the contacts established with EL FA'EL, are directed toward strengthening the influence of the Egyptian Authorities and the Arab League on these movements and to prevent them from playing the game of the Communists and of the Soviet agents, and it will also support the religious groups, the Islamic and Catholic Authorities, in their fight against the countries holding mandates. In this manner the Vatican hopes to consolidate its position in the Arab Countries in anticipation of a chain of events that will give them complete independence.

8. The Vatican's action, in collaboration with the Arab League, is oriented, above all, toward upsetting the relations between the Arab Countries and Israel and between them and Turkey, and to prevent the formation of the two blocks that threaten to completely deprive the Arab League and Egypt of authority; that is, the formation of a Greater Syria, which through Trans-Jordan would become an instrument of British Policy and the Mediterranean Pact, which is an instrument for the domination of Turkey and Israel. To accomplish its ends the Vatican has ways of indirectly intervening in some situations that affect policies in the Middle East. Thus, for example, almost contemporaneously with the visit of Cardinal TISSOT to Egypt, the Arab League protested to the Turkish Government, which was accused of helping the Jews against the Arabs during the Palestinian War of two years ago, and of now continuing to furnish industrial products and foodstuffs to the Jews in disregard of the fact that Turkey is an Islamic Power. In addition, the Arab states expressed the feeling that they felt themselves threatened by the visit of the Israeli Army Commander who came to Turkey for some unknown purpose.

9. The policies laid down by the Vatican for intervening in the Middle Eastern situation are not strictly limited to this region, but also extend to the bordering zones that are of importance to Mediterranean politics. The Holy Eastern Congregation is in contact with the Greek Orthodox Authorities and the acute phase of the Greek vindication on Cyprus, as voiced by the Archbishop of Cyprus, had the objective of worsening the relations between Ankara and Athens at a time when the realization of a Mediterranean Agreement that would have made Turkey the center of a Mediterranean Political-Strategic System in connection with the Middle East was imminent, and which correspond with the desires of the United States.

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